

# MOTOR VOTER NEWS



Washington  
Secretary of State  
SAM REED

Edition 11, October 2007



The September "Motor Voter" performance was, in a word, amazing.

In our first "Motor Voter Newsletter" back in December 2006, we had a column that described the importance of volume, timeliness, and accuracy.

This past month, the licensing offices set a 2007 record of 1,914 voter registration forms turned in each week (on average). That, combined with 1,510 electronic address changes, produced a total of 9,167 voters assisted. If this rate can be maintained throughout an entire year, DOL will have had the best "motor voter" year since 2000.

Since January, the timeliness has been unparalleled; 40 percent of the offices sent in a total of 10 or more forms that were 95-100 percent on time.

This is also the best accuracy rate we've seen since September 2006. Only 14 percent of the transactions were either late or had no registration form following an electronic record. In fact, the error rate has fallen steadily since July of this year.

This keeps the processing more accurate, and reduces the likelihood of voter registration mishaps.

A big thanks to all Licensing agents for what you are doing to help emphasize the importance of the Motor Voter program.

## Washington State Election News

Oral arguments in a court case that could reinstate Washington's popular Top-Two Primary were heard Monday, October 1 in the U.S. Supreme Court.

In *State of Washington, et al. v. Washington State Republican Party, et al.*, the Court will decide whether Washington's Top-Two Primary, passed by initiative in 2004, is constitutional. In a Top-Two Primary, the top two vote getters advance to the General Election regardless of political party affiliation.

Federal courts invalidated the primary initiative in 2005, resulting in a more restrictive primary that requires citizens to vote a straight party ticket. On behalf of Secretary of State Sam Reed and the people of Washington, Attorney General Rob McKenna argued for the Top Two Primary to be reinstated.

The state is cautiously optimistic the nation's highest court will overturn a lower appeals court ruling that invalidated the primary initiative, resulting in a more restrictive primary.

We expect a ruling Spring 2008.



## Motor Voter September Results

All three "Motor Voter" records that were set last month were broken again in September! The North 85<sup>th</sup> Street licensing office submitted four more voter registration forms (626) than during the longer month of August.

Second, each week an average of 1,914 voter registration forms were turned in. That's the highest of any month in 2007.

Finally, last month, 21 offices submitted 89 percent or more of all their "motor voter" forms on time.

Congratulations to these outstanding performers:

Forks	Oak Harbor
Port Angeles	Port Townsend
Smokey Point	N. 85 <sup>th</sup> St, Seattle
Lynnwood	Kirkland
Federal Way	Auburn
Puyallup	Ilwaco
Lacey	Shelton
Kelso	Vancouver
Sunnyside	Yakima (Ltd)
White Salmon	Moses Lake
Colville	Spokane North
Clarkston	Pullman
Anacortes	
Union Street, Seattle	
25 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Seattle	

## Resources

For Voter Registration information and downloadable forms (including foreign language forms) visit:

[www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx)

or contact:

Teresa Glidden	-or-	Dave Motz
(360) 725-5780		(360) 725-5786
<a href="mailto:tglidden@secstate.wa.gov">tglidden@secstate.wa.gov</a>		<a href="mailto:dmotz@secstate.wa.gov">dmotz@secstate.wa.gov</a>

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain."*

*-Louie L'Amour*